

REMARKS

By the instant Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to make reference to the parent application and minor revisions have been implemented consistent with those made in the parent application.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: Robert G. Mukai
Robert G. Mukai
Registration No. 28,531

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: December 5, 2003